

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 019775
ORIGIN INR-07

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00
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DRAFTED BY INR/RNA/SOA:WANDERSEN:DLM
APPROVED BY INR:MPACKMAN
INR/RNA:PHSTODDARD
INR/RNA/SOA:GGBGRIFFIN
NEA/INS:RFOBER (DRAFT)

-----290551Z 105851 /61

R 281707Z JAN 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, PINR, IN

SUBJECT: INDIAN ELECTIONS

1. IN EARLY FEBRUARY INR WILL BE PREPARING A PRELIMINARY
ANALYSIS OF THE MARCH NATIONAL ELECTIONS. IN THE
EMBASSY'S REPORTING ON ELECTORAL DEVELOPMENTS, IT
WOULD BE APPRECIATED IF PARTICULAR ATTENTION COULD BE PAID
TO THE FOLLOWING SUBJECTS OF SPECIAL INTEREST:

--THE MAJOR INTERNAL AND EXTERNAL ISSUES;

--THE EFFECT OF THE ECONOMIC SITUATION ON THE
ELECTORATE;

--THE RESPONSE OF MAJOR SOCIAL GROUPS AND
REGIONS OF CONFLICTING POLITICAL APPEALS;

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--INDICATIONS THAT THE ELECTIONS WILL BE
FAIR AND THAT THE OPPOSITION WILL REMAIN
WITHIN THE PERMITTED RULES OF THE GAME;

--THE LIKELIHOOD THAT THE CAMPAIGN AND THE
LIFTING OF EMERGENCY RESTRICTIONS WILL GIVE

VENT TO POPULAR FRUSTRATIONS AND THE
PROBABLE REACTION OF THE GOVERNMENT TO ANY
LAW AND ORDER PROBLEMS;

--THE ROLE OF THE PRIME MINISTER AND SANJAY
GANDHI IN THE CAMPAIGN;

--KEY DECISION-MAKERS AMONG THE OPPOSITION
PARTIES; AND

--KEY FIGURES IN THE CANDIDATE SELECTION PROCESS
AND THE DEGREE OF ORGANIZATIONAL (PARTY) UNITY;

--THE ROLE, IF ANY, OF THE BANNED RSS AND ITS
CADRE IN THE ELECTIONS.

2. INR WOULD BE GRATEFUL FOR THE EMBASSY'S THOUGHTS
ON THESE QUESTIONS BY C.O.B. FEBRUARY 4.
VANCE

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NNN

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